

Docket No. 2001-0048-01
USSN 09/300,137

activation of said first and second electro-active elements;
wherein said first and second conductors are at least in part a part of an electroded sheet and said first and second electro-active elements are bonded to said electroded sheet with a structural polymer to form a sealed card,
wherein said structural polymer provides a bending stiffness sufficient to prevent deformation of the card to a breaking point and mechanical stiffness such that shear forces are efficiently coupled from the card to a workpiece.

REMARKS

Claim 55 remains in the application. All other claims have been cancelled. The one remaining claim has been amended to narrowly claim the present invention and to clearly distinguish the present invention as now claimed from the referenced prior art. None of the prior art discloses or suggests bonding of the electro-active elements to an electroded sheet with a structural polymer to form a sealed card stiff and strong enough to prevent breaking and to provide efficient coupling of these forces to a workpiece. The new limitations are clearly described in the summary of the invention and the abstract.

Applicants respectfully requests a timely Notice of Allowance in this case.

Marked Up Copy

Applicants have attached marked up copy of earlier versions of the claims showing changes made of the claims as now amended as well as a clean set of claims.

Respectfully submitted,


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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
For USSN 09/300,137

IN THE CLAIMS:

- 35. Canceled
- 36. Canceled
- 37. Canceled
- 38. Canceled
- 39. Canceled
- 40. Canceled
- 41. Canceled
- 42. Canceled
- 43. Canceled
- 44. Canceled
- 45. Canceled
- 46. Canceled
- 47. Canceled
- 48. Canceled
- 49. Canceled
- 50. Canceled
- 51. Canceled
- 52. Canceled
- 53. Canceled
- 54. Canceled

- 55. (New) An actuator device comprising:

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at least a first and a second electro-active element; and
at least a first and second conductor,
wherein said first conductor is in direct electrical contact with said first
electro-active element; and second conductor is in direct electrical
contact with said second electro-active element; and
wherein said first and second electro-active elements and said conductors are
arranged such that said device forms a generally sigmoidal shape upon
activation of said first and second electro-active elements;
wherein said first and second conductors are at least in part a part of an
electroded sheet and said first and second electro-active elements are
bonded to said electroded sheet with a structural polymer to form a
sealed card,
wherein said structural polymer provides a bending stiffness sufficient to
prevent deformation of the card to a breaking point and mechanical
stiffness such that shear forces are efficiently coupled from the card to
a workpiece.